REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	19 March 2002
Name of applicant/court:	Society for Promotion of Community Standards
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Astride
Other Known Titles:	Astride: An Erotic Journey of Daydreams and Delicious Delights
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Penguin Books (NZ) Ltd
Author:	Christine Leov Lealand
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	New Zealand
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature: Running time:

Trailers: Running time:

Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication or any package in which the publication is kept.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book entitled *Astride*, also known as *Astride: An Erotic Journey Of Daydreams And Delicious Delights* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The book is representative of the genre of "women's erotica". It contains extensive and explicit descriptions of sexual activity, presented for the sexual stimulation of women readers. It includes several passages describing sado-masochistic sexual practices. There is some social value in the book's exploration and affirmation of women's sexuality. However, the Classification Office considers that the book's treatment of sex renders it unsuitable for children and young persons, who do not have the experience or maturity to deal with sexual matters presented in the form of explicit fantasies for adults. Because of the likelihood of injury to the public good arising from the availability of the book to children and young persons, a restriction limiting its availability to adult readers is required.

The likelihood of injury to the public good arising from the availability of the publication has been weighed against the right to freedom of expression set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. A classification restricting the availability of the publication to adults represents the minimum interference with the freedom of expression consistent with preventing injury to the public good. The Classification Office is therefore of the view that a restricted classification is both reasonable and demonstrably justified.

OFLC Ref: 200045